

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote "yes," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1617, the Disaster Assistance for Rural Communities Act.

Whether it is a hurricane, tornado, fire, or flood, we are all too familiar with a natural disaster's devastating impact on our communities and constituents. Following a disaster, the SBA provides valuable services and loans to businesses and homes affected.

Due to the rural areas being sparsely populated, they are often outliers when it comes to disaster assistance. This important legislation corrects this unintended consequence by creating a rural category for SBA-declared disasters.

Additionally, the legislation requires the Government Accountability Office, GAO, to report on how rural areas are specifically impacted by disasters, and the legislation requires the SBA to annually report on all rural disaster declarations.

Small businesses are the lifeblood of the economy in rural communities, and we must ensure that they have the ability to receive SBA assistance when a disaster strikes.

I thank my Senate colleagues for their support for rural communities and their work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1617 will provide rural areas with enhanced eligibility for SBA-disaster-declared loans. This bipartisan bill takes an important step to aid rural communities and small businesses when a disaster strikes.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1617 passed the Senate in September, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

This legislation to update SBA's policy to provide assistance to homeowners and businesses in remote rural areas is long overdue. Individuals affected by natural disasters need SBA assistance now more than ever, particularly with the threat of major disasters due to climate change.

A business' location shouldn't determine their eligibility for aid in the wake of a natural disaster. Simply put, it is not fair for SBA loans to be available for individuals impacted by a tornado or flood in an urban area, but not a remote rural area just because the number of properties damaged by the disaster didn't meet an arbitrary threshold.

The SBA's disaster lending program has been an essential tool helping people get back on their feet after a disaster and the program should be available to help as many people as possible.

I thank Ranking Member LUETKEMEYER for working with me to get this bill passed today.

In the 117th Congress, Representative LUETKEMEYER joined the committee as

the ranking member, and while we may not have always seen eye to eye, we were able to set aside our differences to bring more than 20 bipartisan bills to the floor, including legislation to extend the statute of limitations for fraud cases involving PPP and COVID EIDL.

The spirit of bipartisanship has always been central to the day-to-day operations of the committee. I look forward to continuing this tradition. American small businesses deserve nothing less.

I once again thank the members of the committee and their staff who have worked tirelessly through this Congress to aid small business owners and entrepreneurs throughout the country. I am incredibly proud of all the work our committee has done to support small businesses when they needed it the most.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on S. 1617, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1617.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1193. An act to amend title VI of the Public Health Service Act to direct the Director of the National Institutes of Health, in consultation with the Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, to establish a program under which the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall support or conduct research on valvular heart disease and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 4052. An act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treated regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill (S. 3662) entitled "An Act to temporarily increase the cost share authority for aqueous film forming foam input-based testing equipment, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 110-315, the

Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announced that appointment of the following individuals to be members of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity:

Dr. Zakiya Smith Ellis of Georgia.

Debbie Cochran of California.

Dr. Jose Luis Cruz Rivera of Arizona.

COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE ZONES ACT OF 2022

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3875) to require the President to develop and maintain products that show the risk of natural hazards across the United States, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3875

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Section 101(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (6), by adding "; and" at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(7) identifying and improving the climate and natural hazard resilience of vulnerable communities."

SEC. 3. NATURAL HAZARD RISK ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 206. NATURAL HAZARD RISK ASSESSMENT.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE ZONE.—The term 'community disaster resilience zone' means a census tract designated by the President under subsection (d)(1).

"(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

"(A) a State;

"(B) an Indian tribal government; or

"(C) a local government.

"(b) PRODUCTS.—The President shall continue to maintain a natural hazard assessment program that develops and maintains products that—

"(1) are available to the public; and

"(2) define natural hazard risk across the United States.

"(c) FEATURES.—The products maintained under subsection (b) shall, for lands within States and areas under the jurisdiction of Indian tribal governments—

"(1) show the risk of natural hazards; and

"(2) include ratings and data for—

"(A) loss exposure, including population equivalence, buildings, and agriculture;

"(B) social vulnerability;

"(C) community resilience; and

"(D) any other element determined by the President.

"(d) COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE ZONES DESIGNATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President makes the update and enhancement required under subsection (e)(4), and not less frequently than every 5 years thereafter, the President shall identify and designate community disaster resilience zones, which shall be—

"(A) the 50 census tracts assigned the highest individual hazard risk ratings; and